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**CC:**  
**Subject:** Scranton Times-Tribune (5-11) EPA releases last Dimock water tests

## EPA releases last Dimock water tests

By Laura Legere (Staff Writer)

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The last round of test results from federal regulators' investigation of Dimock Twp. water supplies did not give the Environmental Protection Agency reason to "take further action," the agency said in a statement Friday.

One of the 12 water wells contained methane at the agency's action level and EPA informed the resident, state regulators and county emergency officials, the agency said.

With the set of results released Friday, the EPA has published data from 59 of the 61 water wells it sampled in January and February as part of an investigation into the potential impact of nearby natural gas drilling on water supplies in the Susquehanna County town.

The test results for two water wells were not posted publicly because the EPA has not been able to contact the residents to share the results, EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said.

In each of three earlier rounds of sample releases, the agency said the results gave it no cause for either "immediate" or "further" action. In statements accompanying the first 31 results, it said the sampled water did not pose a health concern.

One well in the previous set of samples contained arsenic at nine times the safe drinking water limit and did pose a health threat, the agency said, but a resident refused offers of replacement water.

Elevated levels of methane, barium, arsenic and sodium were detected in other wells but the agency said they were either successfully treated or did not pose a health concern. Twenty of the wells had methane above the state's reporting threshold and five of those were at or above the EPA's "trigger level" or the point when dissolved methane begins to escape into the atmosphere.

The agency has said it has not done any detailed review to determine the cause of any contaminants.

Cabot Oil and Gas Corp., the drilling company most active in the township, said it is "pleased that EPA has now reached the same conclusion of Cabot and state and local authorities resulting from the collection of more than 10,000 pages of hard data - that the water in Dimock meets all regulatory standards."

The EPA began testing water wells in a 9-square-mile area of Dimock after the agency's review of past tests by the state and other groups raised concerns about contamination.

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